

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2008. Claims 1-3, 6-15, 17-20 and 22 remain in this application. Claims 1-3, 6, 11 and 13 are the independent Claims. Claims 6 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4-5, 16, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein.

Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 6, 11, 13-15, 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,467,102 (Kuno); Claims 1-3, 7-10, 19 and 20 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kuno in view of WO 03/058422 A1 (Ohashi); Claims 12 and 18 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kuno in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,339,091 (Yamazaki).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

Perfecting Foreign Priority

Ohashi has an international filing date of July 17, 2003 (WO/03/058422). Although Ohashi claims priority in JP 2001-401324, filed in Japan on December 28, 2001, under 35 USC 102(e)(2), an international application is effective as a prior art reference as of its international filing date, only if it was published in the English language. If the international application was not published in the English language, it then qualifies as a reference only as of its first publication date. Ohashi was first published as JP 2003-196012 on July 11, 2003, in the Japanese language and then

published in the Japanese language as WO 03/058422 on July 17, 2003, and therefore qualifies as a prior art reference only as of its first publication date of July 11, 2003.

The present application was filed in the United States on March 25, 2004 and claims priority in Japanese application no. JP 2003-095476, filed on March 31, 2003, which precedes Ohashi's effective date of July 11, 2003. Therefore, Ohashi can be removed as a reference, and the grounds for rejection under Ohashi overcome, by perfecting applicant's claim to priority and filing a verified English translation of Japanese priority document JP 2003-095476.

A certified copy of the above priority document has been submitted to the Office on June 14, 2004. Applicant submits herewith a verified English translation of the priority document, thereby perfecting the foreign priority claim. Acknowledgement of the foreign priority claim is respectfully requested.

The Kuno Reference

Kuno is directed to a portable display device. A normal single page displayed in portrait orientation can be changed to the landscape orientation (widened display) by rotating the display device by 90° in either clockwise or counter-clockwise direction depending on which hand a user wishes to rotate the device with. Books are the stored documents displayed by the device (*See Kuno; FIG. 8A, Col. 7, line 54 – Col. 8, line 10 and Col. 4, lines 50-51*).

The Ohashi Reference

Ohashi is directed to an electronic display which can be held and operated with only one hand (*See Ohashi; Abstract*).

The Yamazaki Reference

Yamazaki is directed to a paperless portable electronic book having a solar cell 6 mounted to a lid 5. The lid 5 attaches to a device 1 that includes display 2 (See *Yamazaki; Abstract and FIG. 1*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a portable information processing apparatus and a method for displaying an image in the portable information processing apparatus.

Claim 6

As defined by amended independent Claim 6, a portable information processing apparatus includes two display devices and two frames which mount thereon the two display devices respectively. Hinges couple the frames with each other and each of the display devices own a display surface. The hinges own cylinder-shaped rotation portions. When the two frames are fixed with respect to each other, the cylinder-shaped rotation portions are laterally rotated along a longitudinal direction and at a lower portion of the hinges. The two frames are pivotally supported by the hinges in an openable/closable manner. When the two frames are closed, two display portions are brought into such a condition that the two display portions are overlapped with each other and are folded into two displays while the hinges are set to a fulcrum, whereas when the two frames are opened, the two display portions are brought into a two-page spreading condition, while the hinges are set to the fulcrum.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the above features of the Claim 6 of the present invention. In particular, the applied references fails to disclose or suggest "said hinges own cylinder-shaped rotation portions, and when the two frames are fixed with respect to each other, the cylinder-shaped rotation portions are laterally

rotated along a longitudinal direction and at a lower portion of said hinges," as required by amended independent Claim 6 of the present invention.

Kuno is directed to a widened display of a normal single page that requires a user to rotate the display device 100 by 90° clockwise or counter-clockwise in order to view the page as intended. Kuno merely discloses a semi-cylindrical hinge 3 that acts like a hinge and rotates the left and right display screen units 1 and 2 when the hinge 3 rotates. However, when the left and right display screen units are fixed, the hinge is unable to rotate laterally. Therefore, Kuno merely provides a simple hinge 3 between the display screen units and does not teach a hinge 3 able to rotate when the display screen units are fixed.

In contrast, the present invention requires that when two frames are fixed with respect to each other, cylinder-shaped rotation portions are laterally rotated along a longitudinal direction at a lower position of the hinges. This feature allows the present invention to change the image displayed on the main displays by rotating a rotation portion (*See Specification; Page 7, line 27 – Page 8, line 8*).

Thus, Kuno does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by independent Claim 1.

The applied Sugimoto reference does not remedy the above-discussed deficiencies of Kuno. Sugimoto discloses a display terminal which has also a music player function and includes a divided hinge to make the joint between the two displays small and a switch which has an independent structure to enable switch operation even when the terminal is closed.

In contrast, the present invention requires a rotary switch at the hinge. The small switch that is integrated in the body results in features such as portability, easy operation and high reliability and avoids the difficulty in the structure design of the prior art designs.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 1, those references cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons as those discussed in connection with amended independent Claim 1, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 11

As defined by amended independent Claim 11, a portable information processing apparatus includes two display devices and two frames which mount thereon the two display devices respectively. Hinges couple the frames with each other. The two display devices own a first display surface for executing an image display operation of predetermined resolution, and a second display surface for executing a character display operation in higher resolution than that of said first display surface. The two frames are pivotally supported by the hinges in an openable/closable manner. When the two frames are closed, the first and second display surfaces are brought into such a condition that the first and second display surfaces are overlapped with each other and are folded into two displays while the hinges are overlapped with each other and are folded into two displays while the hinges are set to the fulcrum. A Web screen is displayed from a memory of the portable information processing apparatus on the first display surface, with the electronic book displayed on the second display surface.

The applied reference does not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by amended independent Claim 11. In particular, the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest "a Web screen is displayed on said first display

surface from a memory of the portable information processing apparatus, with the electronic book displayed on said second display surface,” as required by amended independent Claim 11 of the present invention.

Kuno is directed to displaying stored documents including books (*See Kuno; Col. 4, lines 50-51*). The display device 100 is used in conjunction with various external devices such as an external battery, external memory, video tape recorder, etc. Furthermore, the display device 100 can be used as the display for a desk-top computer 36 (*See Kuno; Col. 9, lines 4-50*). Importantly, Kuno teaches that the document to be displayed is supplied from the desk-top computer 36 rather than the document memory 14 of display device 100. Therefore, while the display device 100 can display computer content and device 100 content separately, Kuno fails to disclose or suggest that device 100 can display a screen from a memory of the device 100 along with a screen of the computer. Furthermore, Kuno clearly fails to teach a device 100 that can access the Web independently.

In contrast, the present invention requires a Web screen to be displayed on the first display surface from a memory of the portable information processing apparatus with the electronic book to be displayed on the second display surface. Applicant's disclosure at page 27, line 28 and page 28, line 22 describes a Web screen accessed from device memory. In this manner, a viewer can access both the Web and the contents of an electronic book without accessing an external desk-top computer.

According to the Office Action, Kuno discloses hinges (Fig. 1(3)) for coupling said frames with each other; wherein: said two display devices own a first display surface (Fig. 15A(B)) for executing an image display operation of predetermined resolution, and a second display surface (Fig. 15A(A)) for executing a character display operation in higher resolution than that of said first display surface (Col. 10 line 56 – Col. 11 line 5). (*See, Office Action, Page 3.*)

Applicant respectfully traverses this contention and submits that Kuno merely teaches a portable display that displays an expand part (Fig. 15A(A)) of an original map (Fig. 15A(B)) at a second display. The expand part (Fig. 15A(A)) has same resolution with the original map (Fig. 15A(B)) and does not display characters.

In contrast to the above, the present invention discloses a portable display that has a second display for executing a character display operation in high resolution.

Thus, Kuno does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by amended independent Claim 11.

The ancillary references do not remedy the deficiencies of Kuno.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 11, that reference cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 13

As defined by independent Claim 13, a portable information processing apparatus includes a frame on which a display device having a display surface is mounted. A cover is provided for protecting the display surface of the display device. A hinge is provided for coupling the frame to the cover. The display device owns a display surface capable of displaying thereon an image in a pixel size smaller than, or equal to 84.7 μm . The frame and the cover are pivotally supported by the hinge in an openable/closable manner. The cover protects the frame. The cover is rotated while the hinge is set to the fulcrum so as to expose the display surface. The length of the frame along the longitudinal direction is made longer than the length of the cover along the longitudinal direction.

The applied reference does not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by independent Claim 13. In particular, the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest, "wherein a length of said frame along the longitudinal direction is made longer than a length of said cover along the longitudinal direction," as required by independent Claim 13.

Applicant submits that the term longitudinal means of or relating to length or the lengthwise dimension and is commonly understood as the long dimension. This is distinguished from width, which is commonly understood as the measurement of the smaller widthwise dimension perpendicular to the longer length. Thus, the up-down direction of Fig. 2B is the length, while the side-to-side direction is the width. Clearly, Kuno merely teaches a difference of the two frames in the shorter width dimension. In the longer length dimension, the two frames are of the same dimension.

In contrast, present invention requires the length of the frame along the longitudinal direction to be made longer than a length of the cover along the longitudinal direction.

Thus, Kuno does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by independent Claim 13. The ancillary references do not remedy the deficiencies of Kuno.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in independent Claim 13, that reference cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the invention which is the subject of that claim.

Accordingly, independent Claim 13 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 13 and recite additional features of the invention which

are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 12, 14 and 18

Applicant submits that the Office Action has not addressed applicant's arguments traversing the rejections of Claims 10, 12, 14-16 and 18 provided in the amendment dated August 10, 2007 and repeated in the amendment dated January 16, 2008. Applicant again insists that these features distinguish over the cited references and respectfully requests that in view of these arguments, which are reproduced for a second time below, the rejections be withdrawn or further clarification be provided as required under M.P.E.P § 707.07(f).

Dependent claim 19 requires, "said hinges own an indicator for displaying a condition of a power supply." On page 8 of the Office Action, Fig. 2B and reference sign 10C are cited. However, reference sign 10C is not shown in Fig. 2B or in any other drawing figure of Kuno. Applicant has carefully reviewed Kuno and cannot find any mention of a reference 10C. Applicant cannot properly respond to the rejection if the cited portion of the reference is not found. Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection is not provided in sufficient specificity for the applicant to evaluate the Examiner's rejection. Thus, Kuno does not disclose or suggest a power supply indicator that can be recognized even when the display surfaces have been folded and stored.

Moreover, with respect to dependent Claim 14, Applicant notes that the Claim requires, "a holder for storing therein a pen which is used to operate the information displayed on said display notice." Vincent merely teaches the opposite configuration where a retractable screen is attached to a pen size device (*See Vincent; Paragraph [0038], [0107] an Fig. 10AA*). While the pen holds the screen in Vincent, claim 14 requires the holder to store the pen. Applicant submits that a retractable screen in the

Appl. No. 10/809,100
Amdt. Dated September 26, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 83388.0018
Customer No.: 26021

pen cannot store the pen itself. Thus, the combination of Vincent and Kuno to achieve the present invention makes no sense.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 26, 2008

By: 

Dariush G. Adli
Registration No. 51,386
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars
Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Phone: (310) 785-4600
Fax: (310) 785-4601